

City of Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks 2004 Attitudinal Survey

The Public Information Corporation of Littleton, Colorado, conducted a 512-interview telephone survey for the City of Boulder's Open Space and Mountain Parks Department in April, 2004.

Respondents were selected from a randomized sampling of a list of persons who are registered to vote. The registration file was obtained from the Boulder County Elections Office.

Demographic balancing assured that the respondents, collectively, were representative of the voting age population of the City in terms of gender, age and political party affiliation. Confidence factor in such a sampling is expressed as 4.4 percent, plus or minus, in 95 cases out of 100.

A vendor extracted the calling lists from the County's registration file according to our randomization specifications, but all other aspects of the project, including interviewing and data processing, took place at our office.

About the Survey Analysis Format

This analysis volume presents the complete 512-interview results of the City of Boulder Open Space and Parks 2004 survey in text and tabular form. Sometimes the results of related questions are presented in consolidated tables for comparison purposes. Three tables dealing with single questions show both the citywide totals and breakouts of responses according to gender.

In several cases we examine trends where similar questions have been asked in this project and also in surveys that took place in 1999 and/or 1994. The Public Information Corporation also conducted the 1999 survey.

It should be pointed out that there is a difference between 2004 and previous surveys that should be taken into consideration when comparing responses to identical or very similar questions. The 1994 and 1999 questions involved "City of Boulder Open Space," but in 2004 the inquiry was about "City of Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks." That change brought more total recreation use days, and a somewhat different mix of activities, into our tabulations for some of the questions. An example of the latter is the fact that mountain and/or rock climbing turned up for the first time as a distinct response category in one of the open-ended questions.

“Emergent category” refers to semantically similar verbatim responses that are clustered into categories during the editing of questionnaires and then become a number for data entry purposes

We start with a clean slate and no assumptions as to what the major opinions and issues will be. We do not establish the response categories prior to interviewing. They emerge almost on their own as the interviews are being conducted and hence the term “emergent categories.”

“Collapse” refers to instances in which related open-ended categories are combined in tables if we feel that the combination will provide an easier to understand focus on issues.

Collapses are described by text or, if they are used in tables, they are bracketed in clusters made up of the elements involved in the collapse.

Double dashes (--) indicate cases where responses are less than one-half of one percent but not zero. Responses of 0.5 to 0.9 are rounded up to 1 percent.

Notes about two demographic groupings:

(1) Our survey analyses always include an age bracket of 18-to-24 years of age in demographic groupings because, along with other brackets, it’s a standard breakout in the U.S. Censuses. However, because there are only seven years in this grouping, compared with 10 or more for all of the other ones, and more importantly because in recent years the youngest eligible voters are least likely to be registered, their responses are too infrequent to be statistically valid and therefore are not very useful to most of our demographic studies.

(2) The same problem -- infrequency of acquisition for interviews -- also is true of respondents who have lived in Boulder five years or less. That’s because they are largely the same people. A special cross-tabulation shows that 48 percent of those respondents were 18 to 24 years of age.

Primary Purposes of Open Space

Question 1: *First of all, what do you think is the most important purpose for having open space and mountain parks? (Open end)*

*A Comparison of Trends Since 1994**

	<u>2004</u>	<u>1999</u>	<u>1994</u>
Recreation	31%	23%	20%
Environment concerns	24	23	18
Stop growth	18	39	45
Aesthetic values	15	5	7
Quality of lifestyle	6	7	4

**All of the line items in the table are collapses. Responses in 2004 of 2 percent or less, which total 10 percent, are not included unless they are part of collapses. The 2004 verbatim responses that make up the emergent categories within the collapses are listed at the end of this question's text.*

Discussion

This table certainly illustrates substantial changing public perceptions of what is most important among the many things that open space and mountain parks offer to Boulder residents. However, it needs to be quickly pointed out that with open-ended questions of such broad scope any double-digit response grouping that emerges should be considered major. Had we accepted multiple-responses the rankings could have been different, but we could not structure the question that way because it would have made comparisons with 1999 and 1994 invalid.

To the analyst the most striking trend in this comparative table is the fact that stopping growth/creating buffers between communities and developments was perceived as far and away the most important purpose of open space in 1994, at 45 percent, but today fewer than one-fifth of respondents volunteered it.

As indicated that's still an important emergent category, but recreation, principally hiking and bicycling, at 31 percent, and environmental concerns including wildlife and plant preservation, with 24 percent, are at the top of the 2004 list. Aesthetic values such as enjoyment of natural beauty also emerged this year as an important response category, at 15 percent.

Response Categories Included in Collapses :

Recreation, including exercise and fitness, 17%, plus hiking, 10%; biking, 2%; and place for kids to play, 2%. **Total: 31%.**

Environment, 18%, plus save plants and animals, 6%. **Total: 24%.**

“Aesthetic values” including comments such as enjoyment of natural beauty and preservation of scenic views, 13%, plus relaxation, 2%. **Total: 15%**.

Stop or control growth, 12%, plus creates buffer zones, 6%. **Total: 18%**.

Quality of lifestyle, including preserving Boulder’s way of life, 4%, plus comments about breathing room, 2%. **Total: 6%**.

Management Priorities

Question 6: I am going to read you a list of Open Space and Mountain Parks management responsibilities. When managing the lands which one do you believe should receive the highest priority? (Note: the choices are listed in the following table by rank, and not in the order they were presented by interviewers.)

Protecting habitat for wildlife	45%
Providing passive recreation, such as hiking, biking and dog walking	19
Providing community buffers	11
Preserving scenic views	9
Preserving agricultural lands	3
No response	1
All the same priority (not read but was accepted)	12

Discussion

Question 6 is positioned out of order so that its results more conveniently can be compared with those of several similar response categories that turned up in the volunteered answers to question 1. In a couple of cases the results of those comparisons initially seemed paradoxical, but on further consideration they really aren’t because of several basic contextual differences and content of the questions as asked.

For one thing, the question formats are dissimilar -- open-ended on one hand, multiple-choice on the other. Analysis of side-by-side comparisons in such cases must be approached very carefully.

For another there is the issue of respondent orientation. Question 1 asked them to look at open space and mountain parks from their own current perspectives, more often than not as users, but question 6 placed them in the much different context of mountain parks and open space management future priority-setters.

“Protecting habitat for wildlife,” as one example, was selected by 45 percent of all respondents to question 6 for the highest priority for land management among the five land management responsibilities mentioned. With question 1, an emergent category that we call “environment concerns,” which included not only protection of wildlife habitat but also such things as air quality, was said by 24 percent to be the most important purpose for having open space and mountain parks.

And, “recreation,” which also included hiking, biking, dog walking and childrens’ play, led a long list of question 1 “most important purpose” emergent categories at 31 percent. But, when question 6 came along a few minutes later, the offered choice of “passive recreation such as hiking, biking and dog walking” was selected by just 19 percent of respondents as deserving of the highest priority among the five management responsibilities. Again, the difference between “priority” and “purpose” is an important one.

“Preserving scenic views,” which was selected by 9 percent with question 6, had been most but not all of a broader group of question 1 responses called “aesthetic values,” which had been volunteered by 15 percent.

“Preserving agricultural lands” was picked by 3 percent of respondents with question 6, but it hadn’t turned up at all with question 1.

Quality of Open Space & Mountain Parks Experience

Question 2 -- When you visit the City’s open space and mountain parks areas, how would you describe the quality of your experiences?

A Comparison of Trends Since 1999

<u>2004</u>	<u>1999</u>		
	Excellent	60%	58%
	Good	36	35
	Only fair	2	4
	Poor	--	--
	No response	1	3

Discussion

Boulder residents obviously are very pleased with the quality of their experiences in the city’s open space and mountain parks areas, and as the table indicates it has been that way for at least five years. The 1994 survey apparently didn’t have a comparable question. We seldom see such positive grades for services and facilities in our public sector surveys.

The 2004 negatives are even more interesting, in our opinion, because just 12 persons out of the 512 said “only fair,” and “poor” ratings were offered by only two persons.

Quality of Facilities and Services

Question 3: *As a whole, how would you rate the facilities and services of the City’s open space and mountain parks areas, such as trails and signs, education and law enforcement?*

A Comparison of Trends Since 1999

	<u>2004</u>	<u>1999</u>
Excellent	40%	30%
Good	50	48
Only fair	6	11
Poor	1	1
No response	4	12

Discussion

Unlike the comparative table with question 2, this one needs a couple of caveats. As we explained earlier the 2004 but not the 1999 question asked about perceptions of both open space and mountain parks facilities and services. Also, 1999 facilities and services were in two different questions. We have combined the percentages from the 1999 version, which we believe provides a reasonable basis for comparison with 2004.

In short, Boulder respondents in 1999 gave facilities and services 78 percent positive marks, which was very good, but in 2004 it is even better at 90 percent.

Most-needed Improvements

Question 4: *If there is one thing about open space and mountain parks facilities and services that you feel is most in need of improvement, what would it be? (Open end)*

A Comparison of Trends Since 1999

	<u>2004</u>	<u>1999</u>
Dog-related complaints*	19%	7%
Trails/trails maintenance*	17	16
Everything is fine as it	8	10
Better education/information	6	7
Acquire more open space	6	n/a
Parking facilities are inadequate	4	9
Need more rangers, staff	4	n/a
More/better maintained rest room facilities	4	5
Dog rights, including more areas off-leash	3	n/a
Miscellaneous + 2% and under responses	10	12
No response	18	33

**Two of the line items in the tables were collapses and are indicated by asterisks. The 2004 verbatim responses that make up the collapses are listed at the end of this question's text.*

Discussion

Dog-related issues account for the greatest frequency of complaints and suggestions with this question at 19 percent. We believe that the dog issues are even more prominent than they appear here given the fact that, with the exception of 8 percent of these responses that pertained to removal of dog droppings, complaints about dogs didn't pertain to facilities and services at all.

This rising issue was observed to a lesser degree in responses to the same question in 1999. In that survey analysis we noted the emergence of a category -- neither facilities nor services-related -- that called for stronger enforcement of leash rules. Our analysis at the time said that "while it (more dog control) accounted for just 7 percent we feel that the fact it is so clearly out of context as a response underlines just how volatile the issue of dogs in open space is."

It should be noted that not everyone felt hostility toward dogs. Three percent of all responses formed a category that we labeled "dogs' rights," which included such things as calls for more off-leash areas and less stringent enforcement of rules pertaining to people and their dogs.

Inadequate parking facilities complaints have dropped appreciably from 9 percent in 1999 to 4 percent in 2004. However, a new category emerged -- the perception that Parks and Open Space needs more rangers and other staff members.

Otherwise the perceptions of needed improvements are pretty much as they were five years ago.

There was, however, a big change in what might be termed a “non-category” -- the “no response” incidence. In 1999 it was 33 percent, which is unusually large even for an open-ended question. This time it was a not-so-unusual 18 percent.

Response Categories Included in Collapses

Dog-related issues included: dog droppings complaints, 8%; stricter dog control in general, 6%; allowing no dogs to be off-leash, 3%; and better monitoring of off-leash dogs by rangers, 2%. **Total: 19%.**

Trails issues included: better maintenance, 11%; build more trails, 6%. **Total: 17%.**

Emphasis in Open Space/Mtn. Park Management

Question 5: *In order to both protect the natural environment and provide high quality recreational experiences, careful management balance is required. Do you think Open Space and Mountain Parks management is about right, OR is there too much emphasis on preserving the natural environment and not enough on recreation, OR is there too much emphasis on providing recreation and not enough on preserving the natural environment?*

A Comparison of Trends Since 1999

<u>2004</u>	<u>1999</u>		
About right	68%	62%	
Too much emphasis on environment	12	11	
To much emphasis on recreation	15	20	
Other (<i>mostly “not enough information”</i>)	1	4	
No response	4	4	

Discussion

In 1999 about two-thirds of respondents believed that the balance described by the question was about right. In 2004 a small but still significant increase in that perception -- up from 62 to 68 percent -- may be observed.

A close balance between the two management goals was not evident in 1999, with 20 percent believing that there was too much emphasis on recreation versus 11 percent who believed that there was too much emphasis on recreation.

In the 2004 survey the balance has gotten more even -- 15 versus 12 percent respectively. That's well within the 4.4 percent margin of error, which means that it could be viewed as pretty much a toss-up.

Personal Activities in Open Space and Mtn. Parks

Question 7: *What activities do you personally do on the city's open space and in mountain parks? (Open end and multiple choice. As many as three activities were accepted).*

A Comparison of Trends Since 1999

	<u>2004</u>	<u>1999</u>
Walking/hiking	83%	67%
Bicycle riding/mountain biking	30	20
Walking dog	11	10
Viewing scenery/enjoying beauty	12	22
Running/jogging	10	11
Picnicking	5	3
Climbing/rock climbing	5	--
Winter sports	4	--
Don't use it/seldom use it	1	8

Because respondents could list as many as three activities, both the 2004 and 1999 columns total well over 100 percent. Responses of 2 percent or less, excepting with "don't use it," are not shown on this table but totaled 4 percent in 2004 and 9 percent in 1999.

Discussion

Indications of increased numbers of people using trails turn up in responses to several of the survey questions, starting with number 1, but nowhere is it more in evidence than in the table above.

We believe that this is partly due to the fact respondents listed participation in an average of about 7 percent more different activities than was the case in 1999. Adding what happens in mountain parks to that of open space areas in the current survey questions obviously is a significant factor as well, but we have no way to quantify it.

However, we believe that the addition of mountain parks did have two tangible results in the table above:

(1) Whereas in 1999 eight percent of respondents said they seldom or never use open space, only one percent made such statements about open space and mountain parks in 2004.

(2) Two new response categories that seem to particularly reflect mountain parks activities -- “climbing/rock climbing,” at 5 percent, and “winter sports,” at 4 percent -- turned up for the first time.

Virtually all of the visitor use increases occurred with walking and hiking, which was up by 16 percent, and bicycling, including mountain biking, which gained 10 percent.

Virtually no change was observed in the percentage of people who say they walk dogs and those who mention running or jogging. There was a 10 percent drop in the percentage of respondents who listed activities like viewing scenery or enjoying beauty as personal activities.

Balancing Uses and Reducing Conflict

Questions 8-19: This series of questions was preceded by the following statement:

The folks at Open Space and Mountain Parks try to keep recreation activities, on one hand, in balance with preservation of wildlife habitat and ecosystems, on the other. They also work to reduce conflict among visitors. They currently are considering a number of strategies to help do this. I am going to tell you about some of these strategies, and for each of them I would like you to tell me, based on what you know or have heard, if you feel that it is very appropriate, somewhat appropriate, somewhat inappropriate or very inappropriate.

(Note: In order to make the table comparing questions 8-19 responses as compact and readable as possible, we indicate only very briefly what each question was about. The full questions are shown in the questionnaire, which is the last item in this analysis volume.)

	<u>Very Apprp</u>	<u>Some what Apprp</u>	<u>Some what Inap</u>	<u>Very Inap</u>	<u>No Resp</u>
8. Leash dogs in first 100 yards from trailheads	62%	24%	7%	4%	3%
9. Certified to be off leash, under voice/sight control	30	27	23	16	5
10. City ecologists determine OS&MP habitat value	57	29	7	2	5
11. City ecologists determine OS&MP management	50	34	8	3	5
12. No dogs in high wildlife habitat value areas	54	27	13	4	2
13. Leash dogs in high wildlife habitat value areas	73	17	5	3	2
14. Visitors stay on trails in high wildlife habitat areas	76	18	4	1	--
15. Visitors w/permits can go off trails, wildlife areas	47	30	10	10	2
16. Charge OS&MP fee, people from outside County	17	33	26	22	2
17. Charge OS&MP fee, people from outside City	9	23	34	31	3
18. Provide more trails west of Broadway for bikes	27	36	15	11	11
19. Require permit and fee for commercial uses	47	32	12	7	2

Discussion

There are several ways to compare the ranking of the 12 questions in this series, and we preferred “very appropriate” percentages for this project. Another method of comparison we sometimes use is combining the two “appropriate” choices on the scale, but we checked and that did not did not change the rankings much.

	<u>Very Appropriate</u>
q.14 Visitors must stay on trails in high wildlife habitat areas	76%
q.13 Dogs must be leashed in high wildlife habitat value areas . .	73
q. 8 Dogs kept on leash for the first 100 yards at trailheads	62
q.10 City ecologists determine high wildlife habitat value areas. .	57
q.12 Prohibit dogs in high wildlife habitat value areas	54
q.11 City ecologists decide management, high habitat value areas	50
q.15 High wildlife habitat value areas: visitors go off trail w/permit .	47
q.19 Require permit and fee for commercial uses of OS&MP	47

	Very Appropriate
q. 9 Require dogs certified for off leash, under voice/sight control	30%
q.18 Providing more trails west of Broadway for bikes	27
q.16 Charge OS&MP fee to people from outside Boulder County	17
q.17 Charge OS&MP fee to people from outside City of Boulder	9

Question 17 was the only one in the series to receive more negative than positive marks, with 65 percent “inappropriate” and 33 percent “appropriate.”

Question 16 was essentially break-even with 50 percent “appropriate” and 48 percent “inappropriate.” Otherwise, the questions all were rated 57 percent positive or better.

A word about dogs. Three of the four questions that called for more restrictive rules regarding dogs in open space and mountain parks areas received 80 percent or higher positive marks. Question 9, the fourth dog question, which would require dogs to be certified in order to be off leash under voice and sight control, received 57 percent positive marks.

Adequacy of Different Kinds of Management

Questions 20-23: This series of questions was preceded by the following statement:

I will describe some kinds of management provided by Open Space and Mountain Parks. Please tell me how adequate you feel they are:

	Very <u>Adeq</u>	Some what <u>Adeq</u>	Some what <u>Inadq</u>	Very <u>Inadq</u>	No <u>Resp</u>
20. Enforce: bike regulations	18%	37%	16%	6%	23%
21. Enforce: off-leash, not under voice/sight control	10	27	30	22	12
22. Enforce: regulations about dog excrement	11	22	29	29	9
23. Signs warning of hazards	48	39	4	1	8

Discussion

Half of this short series of questions received positive ratings in terms of adequacy of management provided by Open Space and Mountain Parks.

Question 23, asking about signs warning of hazards, received a total of 87 percent “adequate” and “somewhat adequate” marks, the best of the series. **Question 20**, pertaining to adequacy of bike regulations enforcement, was back a bit at 55 percent, and had an elevated “no response” factor of 23 percent.

Once again enforcement of dog regulations received more negative than positive ratings.

With **question 21**, asking about enforcement of regulations for people whose dogs are not under voice and sight control when off leash, 52 percent chose some degree of “inadequate,” and of those 22 percent called it “very inadequate.”

Responses to **question 22**, which asked about enforcement of regulations about removal of dog excrement, were the most negative of the series, with 58 percent giving some degree of “inadequate” ratings and 33 percent “adequate.”

Awareness of Nature Education

Question 24: Open Space and Mountain Parks provides nature education with guided nature hikes, programs at local schools, information at trailheads and events like Farmers’ Market. Were you aware of these educational opportunities?

	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>Men</u>	<u>Women</u>
Yes	73%	71%	75%
No	27	29	25
No response . . .	--	--	0

Discussion

This is a screening question to determine who would be asked question 25.

The table above speaks for itself, and neither the responses of men nor of women reach anomalous proportions.

Where Received Nature Education

Question 25: If you or a family member have ever received nature education from City of Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks staff members, where did it happen? (Open end)

Farmers' Market	11%
Chautauqua	10
Schools/youth activities and places	8
On guided hikes	8
Flagstaff Mountain	4
Miscellaneous	4
Information media/newspapers/mail	2
Didn't participate in education	38
No response	4

Responses of less than 2 percent, which total 11 percent, are not included.

Discussion

This chart also is self-explanatory. Probably the most interesting information here is that 38 percent of the persons who said in question 24 responses that they are aware of Open Space and Mountain Parks nature education report that they never taken part.

Responses that were mentioned by one percent or fewer of the persons who were asked this question, or were part of the 4 percent "miscellaneous," included: Walden and Sawhill Ponds, the Cherryvale facility, at community group meetings, from signs, at fairs, at public library, worked as a trail volunteer, and from telephone calls. Also, five people gave responses that clearly indicated Boulder County open space areas.

Degree of Safety in Open Space and Mountain Parks

Question 26: *How safe do you feel during your visits to Open Space and Mountain Parks areas?*

	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>Men</u>	<u>Women</u>
Very safe	74%	85	64
Somewhat safe.	21	12	29
Somewhat unsafe	3	1	5
Very unsafe	--	--	--
No response	2	2	2

Discussion

Boulder's open space and mountain parks areas have an exceptional image as safe places to be, with 95 percent of respondents considering them to be generally safe, of which 74 percent said "very safe." Only 15 persons out of 512 said "somewhat unsafe," and just two persons -- which works out to be 0.3 percent -- gave "very unsafe" marks.

Reasons For Feeling Safe/Unsafe

Question 27: *What mostly caused you to say that you feel _____ in open space and mountain parks? (Open end. Respondents' answers in question 26 were repeated to them.)*

Note: *It was necessary to list two sets of emergent responses for "somewhat safe." Some respondents viewed "somewhat" as simply a matter of degree of safe, and we term them "positive." Others used "somewhat" as leaning toward "somewhat unsafe." We call such responses "cautionary."*

<u>Reasons for "very safe" responses</u>	
Never a problem/never think about it/never attacked yet	47%
Lots of people there/I stay in groups/go with companions	8
Rangers are patrolling/easy to get help if needed	5
I'm very careful/can take care of myself/trust my instincts	5
Wildlife training/signs telling where to avoid predators	4
Miscellaneous "very safe" comments	5
<u>Reasons for "somewhat safe" responses (positive)</u>	
The unexpected can happen to anybody	1
You're OK if you can outrun danger	1
There's safety in numbers/safe with a companion	1
You're safe if you stay alert	1
<u>Reasons for "somewhat safe" responses (cautionary)</u>	
Presence of mountain lions/fear of being killed by a bear	7
I worry when I'm out alone/you never know who's out there	5
Security gaps/not enough rangers/car break-ins	2
Miscellaneous cautionary responses	3
<u>Reasons for "somewhat unsafe" and "very unsafe" responses</u>	
Mountain lions attack people/marauding bears	2
Miscellaneous "unsafe" responses	1
No response (all categories)	3

Discussion

The comments speak for themselves, and there’s a strong consensus that Boulder open space and mountain parks areas are nearly always safe. One respondent summed it up this way: “Open space is no more unsafe than the streets that take us there.” Only a handful specifically mentioned the presence of mountain lions and bears, and two said they had heard of someone being attacked by a cow.

Activities That Are in Conflict

Question 28: *Sometimes particular recreational activities in open space and mountain parks areas conflict and result in unpleasant encounters. From what you know or have heard, what specific recreational activities would you say are in conflict with other specific activities? (Open end.)*

Bikers vs. walkers/mountain bikers vs. hikers	33%
Bikers vs. horseback riders	4
Dogs vs. everyone else on trails	7
Dogs vs. bikers/dogs vs. mountain bikers	6
Unleashed dogs vs. hikers/off-leash dogs vs. walkers	5
Leashed dogs vs. hikers/leashed dogs vs. walkers	4
Dogs vs. horseback riders	1
Not aware of conflicts/haven’t seen any/not a problem	10
Multiple conflicts/trail users vs. all other trail users.	5
Motor vehicles, off-road vehicles, ATVs vs. hikers	3
Miscellaneous	6
No response	16

Discussion

This open-ended question resulted in a couple of dozen of combinations of different kinds of open space and mountain parks users that were said to be in conflict. The list above shows only the most frequent combinations, and as can be seen bicyclists are involved in 37 percent of the listed conflicts and dogs are one side of 23 percent. After that the focused emergent categories of conflicts drop off considerably.

Some of the less frequently conflicts that ended up in “miscellaneous” or “multiple conflicts” were mountain lions vs. people, dogs vs. ducks, roller bladers vs. walkers, dirt bikers vs. wildlife, snowmobilers vs. snowshoers, hang gliders vs. hikers, hiker vs. cow, rock climbers vs. bird watchers, feral house cats vs. birds, hikers and bikers vs. horseback riders, all recreation activities vs. all other recreational activities, and speeding bikers vs. everybody else.

Twenty-six percent of respondents didn't come up with a conflict. Of those 10 percent made specific comments about beliefs that conflicts either don't really exist or else are exaggerated, plus there was one of the larger "no response" factors of the survey -- 16 percent.

What Should Be Done to Remedy Conflict?

Question 29: *What do you think Open Space and Mountain Parks should do to remedy the conflict you just mentioned? (Open end)*

Make more trails single-purpose/hikers only/bikes only	24%
Tighten all dog control rules	10
Leash dogs at all times in open space and mountain parks . .	4
Keep dogs off most trails	3
Tougher rules for certification of off-leash dogs	2
More user education/more and better signage/provide guidelines	13
Tougher enforcement of regulations for bikes and mountain bikes	4
Give bicyclists courtesy training/put warning bells on bikes . .	3
Limit bicycle access in open space and mountain parks	2
Build bicycles-only trails	2
Get tougher about enforcing all of the rules	9
Miscellaneous	6
Nothing can be done about conflict, it will always be there	5
Get conflicting users together and work things out/mediation . .	4
Keep all motorized vehicles out of open space and mtn. parks	2
No response	6

Discussion

Only persons who responded to question 28 were asked this one, and 24 percent of them felt that the best way to resolve conflicts would be to make more trails exclusive to one kind of use. Hikers and runners-only, bikers-only and dog walkers- only constituted most of those responses.

Nineteen percent called for tougher rules concerning dogs on trails as what should be done to remedy conflicts. Of those, 10 percent said that all rules concerning dog control should be tightened.

More education and information for open space and mountain parks visitors accounted for 13 percent of recommendations. Printed material that better presents guidelines for visitors, including trail courtesy pointers, was mentioned, as was more and better informational signage.

Nine percent called for special attention to the behavior of some bicyclists ranging from tougher enforcement of rules to requiring warning bells on bikes. Five percent of respondents might be described as somewhat fatalistic, with remarks typified by “nothing can be done about conflict, it’s just a human trait.”

Effects of Other Users on One’s Experiences

Questions 30-35: This series of questions was preceded by the following statement:

Activities of other users of open space and mountain parks areas could make your own experience more pleasant or less pleasant. I will read a list of such activities. Please tell me if they make your experience _____: (Interviewers read the response choices as shown in the table below).

	<u>Much more pleasant</u>	<u>Some-what more pleasant</u>	<u>Some-what less pleasant</u>	<u>Much less pleasant</u>	<u>No impact</u>	<u>No response</u>
30. Mountain bikers	8%	26%	40%	4%	5%	6%
31. Horseback riders	10	35	26	8	17	4
32. Dogs on leash	19	50	14	2	5	1
33. Dogs off leash	8	24	32	28	7	1
34. Runners	17	49	10	1	22	2
35. Hikers	31	49	2	--	16	1

Discussion

Four of the six types of trail users are considered to be more pleasant than not, with hikers said to make respondents’ experiences more pleasant by a margin of 80 percent. Only 2 percent said it made the experiences less pleasant. We doubt if it’s coincidental that 50 percent of respondents earlier had said that they walk or hike in open space and mountain park areas.

Runners also fared well on the “pleasant” scale, with 66 percent indicating that they made others’ experiences more pleasant and 11 percent giving less pleasant marks.

Perhaps the most interesting comparative responses in this series had to do with dogs. Sixty-nine percent of respondents said encountering dogs on leash made their own experiences more pleasant, but dogs off leash was very much another

matter. Sixty percent said encountering dogs off leash made their experiences less pleasant, of which 28 percent responded “much less pleasant.”

Besides dogs off leash, mountain bikers were the only open space-mountain park users that, on balance, were said to make others’ experiences less pleasant. It wasn’t by a large margin. Forty-four percent gave less pleasant responses, with 34 percent saying “more pleasant.”

Encountering horseback riders is regarded as mildly positively. It was 45 percent on the “more pleasant” side of the scale of responses and 34 percent on the “less pleasant” side.

How Often People Use Open Space

Question 36: *How often do you use City of Boulder open space or mountain parks?
(This question was asked as being open-ended, but interviewers were instructed to read the scale below if prompting was needed.)*

	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>Men</u>	<u>Women</u>
Every day	19%	22%	16%
2 to 3 times per week	26	28	23
Once a week	21	20	23
2 to 3 times a month	12	12	13
Once a month	12	9	14
2 to 3 times a year	7	7	8
No response/never	2	2	2

Discussion

Every day users account for the vast majority of all visits to City of Boulder open space and mountain parks areas. The scale of frequency used in the question does not lend itself to precise numbers, but we believe a reasonable estimate would be that 80 percent of user days are by every day visitors, most of whom are found on the system of trails.

As the table above indicates men are more likely to visit every day, or 2 to 3 times per week, than are women. However, after that women have the edge, although far fewer actual user days are involved.

Use of Leashes

Question 37: *Do you ever walk or run a dog in City of Boulder open space or mountain parks areas?*

Note: This was a screening question to determine who should be asked question 38. The tabulation was as follows: yes, 32 percent; no, 68 percent; and no response, less than one percent.

Question 38: *How often or when do you use a leash? Would you say _____*
(Respondents were read the following list)

Always	38%
Frequently	15
Occasionally	24
Never	8
When others near	12
No response	2

Discussion

The table speaks for itself, and it gives a very clear picture of what people who take dogs into open space and mountain parks areas say is their pattern of leash usage.

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